

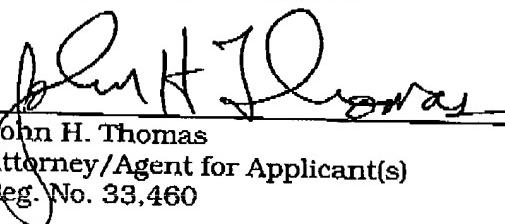
RESPONSE

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the brief discussions with the Examiner on July 21, 2004 and July 22, 2004. During those discussions, the specific claim language that was added in the foregoing amendment was discussed. Applicant notes that during that discussion, the language of the claims, as amended, was indicated to be in condition for allowance.

In any event, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested hereon.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2127.

Respectfully Submitted,


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July 22, 2004

Date

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Andrew D. Wright at the Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.


John H. Thomas

Date: July 22, 2004